Center for Exoplanet Science Colloquium Series

Date & Time: Thursday, 22 May 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Coffee & Cookies at 3:45 p.m.

Place: JPL building 169-336

Speaker: Dimitri Mawet earned his PhD at the University of Liege in 2006, was an ESA postdoc at Liege from 2006-2007, and came to JPL as a NASA postdoc working with Gene Serabyn in 2007.

Title: Phase-Mask Coronagraphy: Scientific Results and Perspectives

Abstract: Phase-mask coronagraphs provide unique inner working distance capabilities. Coupled to an adaptive optics system, they have proven reliable in terms of scientific efficiency. In this talk, I will present results obtained at the VLT with the four-quadrant phase-mask coronagraph at NACO's focus, as well as results obtained at the Palomar 5-m telescope using the Well-Corrected Subaperture. New advanced phase masks are under study and planned for second-generation instruments. I will present the coronagraph technology chosen for SPHERE as well as recent developments around the vectorial vortex coronagraph here at JPL.